

Message Text

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, SP

SUBJ: FIRST SECRETARY OF THE PARTI SOCIALISTE OUVRIER

ESPAGNOL SPEAKS ON SPAIN'S APPLICATION TO EC

REF: BRUSSELS 8683

1. AT END OF TWENTY-FOUR HOUR VISIT TO BRUSSELS
SEPTEMBER 16, AND PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 20 EC COUNCIL
DECISION SETTING IN TRAIN PROCEDURE FOR EXAMINING SPAIN'S
REQUEST TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY, FELIPE GONSALEZ, FIRST
SECRETARY OF THE PARTI SOCIALISTE OUVRIER ESPAGNOL (PSOE),
GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE HERE WHICH COVERED IN PART HIS
COUNTRY'S APPLICATION FOR EC MEMBERSHIP. GONSALEZ SAID
HE HAD CONFERRED WITH COUNCIL PRESIDENT SIMONET,
COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS, AND COMMISSIONER GILIOTTI
ON THIS ISSUE. WHILE THOSE TALKS WERE POSITIVE, HE
SAID FUTURE SPANISH MEMBERSHIP RAISES NUMEROUS ECONOMIC
PROBLEMS AND WILL REQUIRE GREAT CAUTION, PARTICULARLY ON
THE PART OF THE SPANIARDS. FUNDAMENTAL ADJUSTMENTS, HE
CONTINUED, WOULD BE REQUIRED IN SPAIN IN THREE SECTORS:
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INDUSTRY, WHICH AT PRESENT COULD NOT SUSTAIN COMMUNITY
COMPETITION; AGRICULTURE, WHERE SPAIN'S INTERESTS CLASH
WITH THOSE OF FRANCE AND ITALY; AND INVESTMENTS.
GONSALEZ ADDED THAT ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF
SPAIN'S MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS
BACKWARD REGIONS IN ORDER TO PREVENT A LABOR EXODUS
WHICH WOULD BE AS DETRIMENTAL TO THE COUNTRY AS FLIGHTS

OF CAPITAL RESOURCES.

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2. AS REGARDS THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EC, GONSALEZ SPECULATED THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE PREPARED TO ADOPT A MORE CONCILIATORY POSITION TOWARD THE COMMUNITY THAN WOULD THE PSOE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MAIN ARGUMENT FOR HIS COUNTRY'S EC MEMBERSHIP WAS THAT IT WOULD CONSOLIDATE SPAIN'S DEMOCRATIC REGIME, A VIEW WHICH HIS PARTY SHARED. GONSALEZ SAW NO CONFLICT BETWEEN PSOE INTERESTS AND ITS ADVOCACY OF MEMBERSHIP IN A BASICALLY CAPITALISTIC COMMUNITY. HE SAID THERE WAS NO DISAGREEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE WITHIN THE PSOE, SINCE MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE VIEWED WITHIN ITS BROADEST POSSIBLE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT.

3. FINALLY, GONSALEZ SAID HE ANTICIPATED IT WOULD TAKE SPAIN SEVEN TO EIGHT YEARS BEFORE REACHING FULL INTEGRATION IN THE COMMUNITY. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO MODIFY THE ROME TREATIES CREATING THE EC IN THE CONTEXT OF A WIDENED COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP.

4. ON OTHER ISSUES, SUCH AS NATO MEMBERSHIP (PSOE OPPOSES MEMBERSHIP, PREFERRING "ACTIVE NEUTRALITY"), PSOE PARTICIPATION IN THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT (NO), AND THE SPANISH COMMUNISTS, GONSALEZ REPEATED HIS PARTY'S WELL KNOWN POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY EMBASSY MADRID.
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